AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figs. 7, 8, 9, and 10. The changes are discussed in the Remarks section of this paper.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The drawings were objected to for using reference characters 14a and 14b to identify both a feature and its modification. This has been corrected in both the specification and the drawings. In Figs. 7, 8, 9, and 10, the reference characters 14a and 14b have been changed, and the specification has been changed accordingly. Therefore, this objection should be withdrawn.

The drawings were further objected to for the reference number 15, which appears in the drawings but was not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended to identify the gap with reference number 15. Therefore this objection should be withdrawn.

The drawings were also objected to for failing to mention reference characters A, B, and O in the specification. The specification has been amended to include these reference characters. Therefore this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 was said to be indefinite for the phrase "the second protruding portion protrudes towards the first rotating member with being displaced from the first protruding portion." This phrase has been removed, and claim 1 has been clarified. Claim 1 is now considered to be fully definite, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Trivalio. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

In the office action, an internal sleeve 11 of Trivalio corresponds to the first rotating member of claim1, and the external sleeve 12 corresponds to the second rotating member of claim 1. However, Trivalio discloses that both the internal sleeve 11 and the external sleeve are fixed to a driving side of the coupling 1. Thus, the internal sleeve 11 and the external sleeve 12 cannot serve as the first rotating member and the second rotating member, respectively.

The purpose of the Trivalio device is to provide elasticity in a reverse rotation. The coupling 1 is rotated to rotate the dogs, or protrusions, 7-10. The protrusions 7-10 apply force to the clamps 14-17, which apply force to the flexible inserts 3-6. Gaps C are formed between the protrusions 7-10 and the clamps 14-17. In Trivalio, the gap C is zero in a state where the coupling is not rotated and no load is applied.

However, in the present invention, the second elastic member is apart from at least one face of the second face with a gap when the first elastic member contacts both the first faces in a state where a compressed transformation is zero. That is, when no load is applied, a gap exists in the torque transmission system of the claimed invention. Therefore, the publication of Trivalio fails to satisfy the limitations of claim 1, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Polakowski. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

In the Polakowski patent, a protrusion 46 makes contact with fingers 50A, 50B in both normal and reverse rotation. Therefore, a torque is transmitted even when a gap exists. See col. 9, lines 29-52. In contrast, in the claimed invention, a pair of first faces sandwich the first elastic member and transmit only a normal rotational torque, and a pair of second faces sandwich the second elastic member and transmit only a reverse rotational torque. Also, in the claimed invention, even when the first rotating member is rotated in a reverse direction, no reverse

rotational torque is transmitted to the second rotating member as long as the gap exists. That is, when a gap exists, no reverse rotational torque is transmitted. This is distinctly different from the device of Polakowski, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polakowski. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As described above, the device of Polakowski has no structure to prevent reverse rotational torque when a gap exists. Therefore, the patent to Polakowski cannot render claims 4 and 5 obvious, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

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